

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
OCT 06 2009

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for improving the long term stability of biodiesel, wherein comprising:

(a) forming a reaction mixture comprising a crude methyl ester, is formed by transesterification of a vegetable or animal fat or oil with methanol,

wherein

(b) forming a layer containing the crude methyl ester of step (a), and separating the layer from the rest of the reaction mixture,

(b) (c) intensively inline mixing the crude methyl ester layer formed obtained in step (a)

(b) is intensively inline mixed at temperatures between 25 and 60°C with a strong acid or with a mixture of a strong acid and a complex former, to form an emulsion, and

(b) (d) separating an ester layer separated from the emulsion formed in step (b) (c), is subjected and then subjecting the separated ester layer to a thorough water wash and is subsequently dried a subsequent drying.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 1, wherein hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, p-toluenesulfonic p-toluenesulfonic acid or phosphoric acid are employed as a strong acid, and ~~EDTA~~ ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid or citric acid are employed as a complex former, if present.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, wherein the water wash is carried out in a wash column according to the counter current principle or by means of a mechanically intensive mixer.